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FORMER GENERAL MANAGER OF WJCL-TV
CHARGED IN FRAUDULENT SCHEME

Lisa Godbey Wood, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced today the return of a forty-eight (48) count indictment on December 6, 2006 by the federal grand jury sitting in Savannah against Mitchell M. Maund who is the former general manager of WJCL-TV in Savannah, Georgia. Defendant Maund is charged with forty-seven (47) counts of mail fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1341 and one (1) count of wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343.

The indictment arose out of a joint federal and state investigation into financial irregularities at WJCL-TV, the ABC affiliate located in Savannah, Georgia. The indictment alleges that from March 2002 through April 2006, while the Vice President and General Manager of WJCL-TV, Defendant Maund defrauded WJCL-TV and its parent company, Piedmont Television Holdings LLC, of more than \$200,000.00 through a scheme involving hundreds of unauthorized personal charges to a corporate credit card, including charges for the purchase of jewelry, airline tickets and cruise tickets. The indictment alleges that Defendant Maund used the United States mail and interstate wire communications to execute his scheme to defraud.

If convicted, each of the forty-eight (48) counts has a maximum statutory penalty of not more than twenty (20) years imprisonment; a fine of not more than \$250,000; and, not more than three (3) years of supervised release.

Ms. Wood stressed that an indictment is only an accusation and is not evidence of guilt. The Defendant is entitled to a fair trial, during which it will be the Government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The investigation was conducted by agents with the United States Secret Service and the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police. The Government is represented by Assistant United States Attorney Jim Durham of Savannah, Georgia.

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